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connected with the study of algal ecology, and has suggested some means towards their solution. The first problem considered is the determination of what shall constitute a formation, and the contrast with terrestrial formations is made. Suggestions are made as to the significant unit and examples are given. Chief attention, however, is given to algal periodicity, the seasonal variations of algae being much greater than those of terrestrial plants. "In most cases in an aquatic flora a number of dominant forms succeed one another in the course of a year, and after their period of prevalence is past they disappear either suddenly or gradually." Periodicity of algae is either seasonal or irregular, and the factors concerned in both of these cases are discussed. In illustration of his statements, the author discusses the algal flora of a particular pond. The paper is a distinct stimulus to the study of pond life in an effective way.—J. M. C.

**Decay of timber.**—Following the lines of investigation laid down by HARTIG in his *Zersetzungerscheinungen des Holzes*, BULLER<sup>21</sup> has contributed a further study on the subject of the decay of timber caused by the higher fungi. The form studied is the common *Polyporus squamosus*, which is found on many species of broad-leaved trees. Like other forms of this class, the fungus gains entrance to the tree through wound surfaces. The mycelium progresses more rapidly in a longitudinal direction in the wood, so that the decayed region extends many feet up and down the trunk and principal branches, while advancing only a few inches in a radial direction. The hyphae penetrate into all the wood cells. The decaying wood is lighter in color than the sound wood. In the final stages of the decay the wood cracks into cuboidal blocks, with the intervening crevices filled with strands of the white mycelium of the fungus. The decayed wood is somewhat richer in carbon and poorer in oxygen and nitrogen than sound wood.—H. HASSELBRING.

**Apogamy in *Dasyllirion*.**—WENT and BLAAUW<sup>22</sup> have described apogamy in *Dasyllirion acrotrichum*, in the case of plants in cultivation in the Utrecht Botanical Garden. This Mexican species is dioecious, and no staminate plants exist in the garden, thus precluding the possibility of fertilization. A certain number of fruits matured sufficiently to attract attention, and an examination of the ovules discovered embryo sacs containing endosperm tissue in various stages of development, in some cases completely filling the sac. *Dasyllirion* is thus added to the very few illustrations of endosperm-formation without fertilization. In these endosperm-containing sacs no embryos were found, but in some others a group of cells was discovered in the usual position of the egg-apparatus, which the authors seem justified, judging from the figures, in regarding as a young embryo. The position would suggest a case of parthenogenesis, but there is room for doubt, and the authors prefer to speak of it as a case of apogamy.—J. M. C.

<sup>21</sup> BULLER, A. H. REGINALD, The biology of *Polyporus squamosus* Huds., a timber-destroying fungus. Jour. Econ. Biol. 1:101-138. pls. 5-9. 1906.

<sup>22</sup> WENT, F. E. F. C. and BLAAUW, A. H., A case of apogamy with *Dasyllirion acrotrichum* Zucc. Recueil Trav. Bot. Néerland. no. 3. pp. 12. pls. 5. 1905.